



Former students
ride across the
country

P 12-13

Custodial union controversy continues



St. Michael's College supports workers' rights, and legitimately claims a strong historic, continuing record of commitment to social justice.

- Buff Lindau

The lack of action thus far on the part of our school's administration raises a red flag for me.

- Andrew Driscoll, '09



Photos by Sheila Bogan and Jessica Campbell

Clockwise from top left: Tom Kingston, fired custodial worker, speaks at the press conference held by SLAM in front of the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel on Wednesday; Buff Lindau, director of marketing and communications at St. Michael's College, addresses the crowd in defense of the college at the press conference; Pratit Gurung, a custodian at St. Michael's College, and Matt McGrath, a member of the Vermont Workers' Center, wave signs supporting the union near Route 15 and the Days Inn at the rally Friday; Members of SLAM, custodial workers, and union representatives gather Wednesday at the SLAM press conference. SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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Alleged assault suspect still at large

By Kelsi Brett
S.A. Correspondent

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations is investigating an alleged sexual assault that occurred on St. Michael's campus Sept. 14, according to a press release issued by the CUSI.

Through footage captured by a security camera, authorities are able to describe the suspect as a tall, muscular, white male, approximately 25 years old. He has short, blonde hair and no facial hair.

According to Peter Soons, director of public safety, two assaults occurred on campus the night of Sept. 14. One occurred in the 300s townhouses, and the other in the area around the

suites. The incidents are unrelated.

"The victims are students while the alleged assailants may or may not be students," said Soons in a campus wide email on Sept. 17.

In the email, Soons also urged students to be aware of their surroundings, keep doors locked and to report suspicious circumstances and persons to public safety at the time they are observed.

Anyone with information about the suspect's identity is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 802-264-5555, or the CUSI's Sgt. Dennis Duffy at 802-859-3084.



Photo courtesy of Peter Soons
Photo of the alleged sexual assault suspect, taken from a security camera in Cashman Hall.

Sodexo re-defines 'full-time worker'

By Liam Connors
Arts Editor

Sodexo, the dining service provider at St. Michael's, University of Vermont and other colleges and businesses around Vermont, will be changing its definition of what constitutes a full-time employee.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2014, "hourly employees who work an average of at least 30 hours per week over a 52-week period will be considered 'full-time,'" wrote Gregory Yost, a public relations manager at Sodexo in an email interview.

"In order to comply with the Affordable Care Act, Sodexo is aligning how we define benefits eligibility with federal requirements and definitions," Yost said.

The Affordable Care Act mandates, among other things, that employers provide all full-time employees with healthcare coverage.

Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, who also is an English professor at UVM, first heard about Sodexo's proposed changes after a number of Sodexo employees at UVM raised concerns that they would lose benefits under the new plan. In response to these complaints, Baruth sent a letter to Commissioner Annie

Noonan of the Department of Labor.

"I asked for her to look into these allegations and render some kind of opinion about whether what was contemplated was legal," Baruth said. "She got back to me to say she doesn't think that what they're doing right now contravenes Vermont's statute."

Vermont is an "at will" employment state, according to the memo sent from Noonan to Baruth. Employers in the state of Vermont "may reduce the hours, and subsequently the pay, of its employees at any time and without cause, provided that they are not taking such action for the purposes of discriminating against any employee in a legally-protected class, or where retaliation for filing claims is expressly prohibited," such as in worker's compensation and wage and hour claims.

"Nobody's losing anything," said Hank Strashnick, general manager of Sodexo at St. Michael's. "Instead of accruing sick and vacation times, those people that are off get a pay increase equal to whatever they're not accruing. Your pay will be adjusted to give you your money back in a year. We will be encouraging those people to put that money aside and use it as the true rainy

day fund."

Strashnick added that employees who lose eligibility for healthcare from Sodexo will be directed to the state run healthcare exchanges.

"We're setting up a website and a phone service for any affected employee to contact to help transition," Strashnick said. "HR is setting up a whole team to work with the affected people. But at this point we don't know who or how many."

Sodexo will not know how many employees will be affected by the change until mid-October, Yost wrote in an email.

"We've told our staff, look a lot's coming down. We'll work you through it," Strashnick said. "We're setting up help for people that need to go to the state exchange which potentially will save you money."

"Sodexo says that they are forced to make this change because of the Affordable Care Act," Baruth said. "They left the impression that if they didn't do it, they would be fined. From what I understand that is not true."

"The Affordable Care Act does not have a requirement regarding the number of hours an employer has an employee work," said Robin Lunge, director of healthcare reform in Ver-

mont. "My guess is that they are reducing the hours of their employees to make them fit in the definition of part time so that they can avoid paying a penalty for not providing coverage to that employee."

According to Lunge, businesses that don't provide healthcare for full-time employees, will have to pay a penalty of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per employee, starting in calendar year 2015.

Sodexo employees who are not covered by Sodexo after this change will be able to get healthcare coverage through Vermont Health Connect, Lunge said. Vermont Health Connect is the state's healthcare exchange program and it will offer a variety of plans from two insurance companies.

Until October, Sodexo employees will have to wait to see if their designation will be changed from full to part-time.

"We had a meeting in August with our staff, I introduced it. There's no secrets," Strashnick said. "I was honest with my people and said I don't have all the answers. I just asked my staff to be patient. As soon as I can get you information and answers I will."

Opinions about custodial firings divide campus

Administration responds to press conference as local labor groups rally in support of fired custodians

By Gracie Barney, Sheila Bogan, Kelsi Brett, Patrick Cope, and Mikala Kane

The firings of two college custodians have sparked discussion across the St. Michael's community. After an alumni petition, a contentious faculty assembly meeting, a press conference and a rally, all sides continue to stand by their positions. The Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM) and various other workers' rights groups allege "union busting," while the administration affirms the firings are justified and unrelated to union activity.

Tom Kingston and Dannis Hackney were two of the lead organizers of the union that was established after a vote last November. The administration has responded to accusations of union busting and has taken measures to have their voices heard.

"It's a very dangerous time for St. Mike's to be under attack," said Buff Lindau, director of marketing and communications at St. Michael's. "It's strange to me that people who admire us so on the faculty, would think that we are as culpable as they are claiming that we are. Maybe you can remind them that it's a dicey time for higher education."

Lindau spoke in defense of the college at the press conference on Wednesday. The event was attended by members of the Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM), alumni, union members, Kingston and onlookers.

"As I said at that rally, it is a show of good faith that we are as careful as possible to do exactly what the union is asking in terms of meeting, negotiating, schedules, etcetera," Lindau said in an interview with The Defender. "It's not a matter of 'I don't like a union.' It's just that we're in the middle of negotiations and they have to be handled in a very judicious way."

Due to privacy policies with St. Michael's, people involved with the negotiations are prohibited from commenting.

Professors and administra-

tors commented on the issue at a faculty assembly meeting that was held on Sept. 13.

Professor Bill Grover, who has met repeatedly with SLAM members and custodians, outlined his concerns regarding the firings at the faculty assembly.

Robert Letovsky, professor of business administration and accounting, spoke at the faculty assembly. "What I said is if we want to do anything about social justice in the way of paying them more, is that going to come out of our students and their families?" Letovsky said. "Because that's part of the social justice discussion that I think is an injustice."

A big concern for Letovsky is the introduction of union dues to custodians. "I don't know what the dues will be, but you're dealing with people where even if they get a nice raise or not, they're not earning a lot of money," Letovsky said. "Teachers pay dues of over \$1,000 a year. That's real money and that's after tax."

Letovsky raised the question of where there money will come from. "I don't even understand how you could present it as 'just' to raise their wages if it's going to drive up tuition," he said. "I don't see that as just at all."

In an interview with The Defender, President Jack Neuhauser responded to a letter that SLAM sent to his office urging him to provide better livable wages for custodians.

"I wish everyone could earn more money, but it's always a relative thing," Neuhauser said. "I believe our starting wages are higher than just about any other institution in Chittenden County. I could support a livable wage but the students are paying for it."

Buff Lindau also commented on the benefits and wages of the custodians at St. Michael's. "There is a very good health plan with dental and vision," Lindau said. "I mean you could compare the details of the benefits package and the payment scale which is what began to be one of the rallying points. I don't think that we really are in a category to be criticized there either in terms of



Conor Disher, '17, marches on the edge of St. Michael's College campus and Route 15 during the rally for the union on Friday.

treatment of our employees."

SLAM held a meeting with Neuhauser to discuss the firings and present their desired solution. Nick Kennedy and Nate Lewis, '14, both said that Neuhauser began the meeting by saying that they were being "manipulated" by their professors.

In an interview with The Defender Neuhauser said, "The students certainly have every right to form their own opinions and to act on them, but in the context of a college, I would expect that they would examine all sides of an issue and be aided in that by faculty members."

SLAM also called for Neuhauser to reinstate the fired custodians. "We can't do that because of the union," Neuhauser said. "There is no process by which we [the administration] would reinstate them. I can say very firmly that the college does not dismiss people without cause and never would. So, the presumption that this was for union activities is ludicrous. Especially in the context of a union forming, they would have the protection of the National Labor Relations Board and you can bet that that's the first thing the NLRB would look for."



Kirsten Wilson, '14, a member of SLAM, spoke at the press conference in front of the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel on Wednesday.

Political Science Professor Trish Siplon, who was in attendance at the faculty assembly meeting, spoke of Professor Bill Grover's courage in bringing up the issue in front of many of his colleagues.

"I think it was very brave," Siplon said. "I think that it's a very difficult thing. I've been in that position of raising a difficult issue that people are uncomfortable addressing. I think that's why we don't do it most of the time. I think it was really brave thing to be willing to face all of your colleagues and supervisors and say this is something we

need to talk about really openly."

Ann Michaud is one of the custodians against the union. Michaud said that Grover's involvement with SLAM and the union is not helping the situation. "I think he should be removed," Michaud said. "The college pays his salary and he's undermining them by telling them they're not doing what they're supposed to be doing. If I did that, I'd be out of a job."

See **UNION FOLLOW-UP** on page 6

Photo by Sheila Bogan

Photo by Sheila Bogan

New transit station sixteen years in the making

By Kelsi Brett
S.A. Correspondent

In the fall of 2015, St. Michael's College students heading back from downtown will no longer have to wait out in the cold for their bus to arrive. The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) is scheduled to start construction on a new transit station in the summer of 2014.

As the plans stand now, the new station will sit along the center of St. Paul Street, which connects Pearl and Cherry streets. The station will include a small facility on the south side of the platform that will feature public restrooms as well as a seating area for waiting passengers, and will be equipped with heating and air-conditioning.

"From what I remember looking at the plans, there was going to be an indoor part to it," said Ron Jacobs, Durick librarian circulation supervisor at St. Michael's. "I thought [that] was nice, because it would be pleasant on the cold days when you're waiting for your bus."

Jacobs rides the bus to and from his job at St. Michael's every day. "I don't drive, I haven't had a car in 30 years," Jacobs said.

"It's got heat, that would be nice," said Richard Gorski, '14. "I had a car last semester, so I'm not pumped for when it's going to be cold and I'm going to have to sit and wait." Gorski uses the bus to travel to and from his job in the Burlington Town Center Mall.

The station would also feature a waiting platform protected by a canopy and windscreens. There will be space for 10 buses to berth along the platform, with the remaining 11 berthing along the north side of Cherry and Pearl streets.

The space along Pearl Street will be used for future expansion, said Stephen Carlson, transit station project manager for CCTA. Expansion could mean more frequent buses along certain routes as well as the creation of new routes.

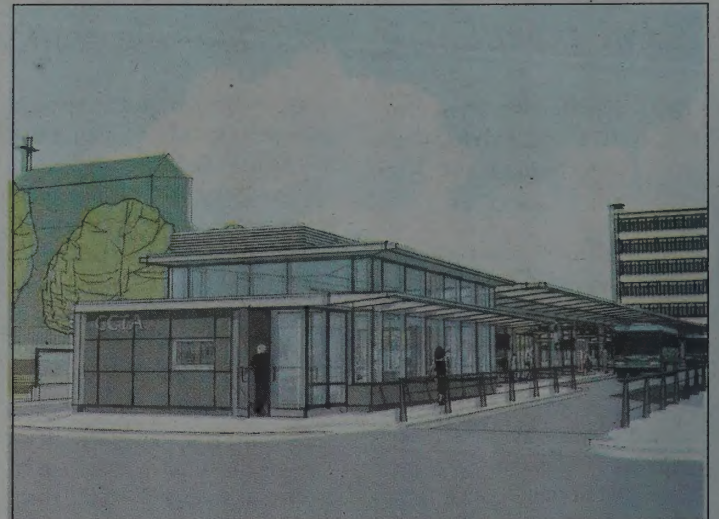
According to Meredith Birkett the CCTA director of planning and marketing, there

are no definitive plans for expansion. The CCTA is adding a new route from Jeffersonville to Burlington starting in October. They have also partnered with the city of Colchester in order to begin servicing that community.

The need for expansion is determined based on a number of factors, Birkett said. The CCTA looks at the data from current routes, as well as census data and community surveys to determine route expansions or increases in bus frequency.

The idea for a new transit station was originally conceived back in 1998, with the city of Burlington leading the project. Burlington handed the project over the CCTA after their second attempt at the project fell through in 2008.

"Our board told our management, 'well you know, this should be our project not the city's project, because we run the bus service,'" Carlson said. "So we began a discussion with the city, and eventually they turned over the project to us and the funding that they received from the FTA [Federal Transit Administration]."



Design courtesy of CCTA

A design of what the new transit station will look like upon its estimated completion in 2015.

ministration]."

The city of Burlington received a \$2,427,184 grant in 2008 from the Federal Transit Administration. The grant was officially handed over to the CCTA in 2012 in order to fund the research and construction of a new transit station.

With construction beginning this coming summer, how to deal with traffic and bus re-

routing will become an important question. Birkett said they are aware they will need to change some of the bus routing into downtown to accommodate construction, but at the moment there is no specific plan in place. "We will have one once we are further along in the process," Birkett said.

EPA grant will inspire more community service

By Patrick Cope
News Editor

Last spring, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$150,000 in grant money to the Northern New England Campus Compact, an organization that builds community engaged learning programs in schools throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Through Campus Compact, this money was divided and given to several colleges throughout northern New England. St. Michael's received \$5,000. Despite the small amount of money, the professors involved in this project said the importance lies in getting students off campus and serving their community.

Professors Jeffrey Ayres (environmental studies chair), Patricia Siplon (political science), Laura Stroup (environmental science), Peter Hope

(biology) and Karen Popovich (business administration) recently became involved with community engaged learning as a means of using this grant to integrate environmental programs into the classroom. Working with Joan Wagner in the Center for Community-Engaged Learning, these professors are required to make four new courses to implement this style of learning. Professors Ayres and Popovich have begun implementing it for this semester.

"The grant's not much, but we really don't see the money as the point," said Ayres, the project's director. "What it really did was spark us to get a conversation going among some faculty about the value of promoting environmental sustainability through more community engaged learning."

Ayres created a new global environmental politics course in his department to implement this

learning style. His students will be working with 350 Vermont on local projects to learn about the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the global fight against climate change. 350 is one of these NGOs, that have been working worldwide to take action on behalf of the environment, and it has a strong presence in Vermont.

Ayres believes that working with the community outside of the campus will help to increase the value of a liberal arts education.

"This money can be used for anything from gas to take students to 350's headquarters, but the energy has really gone into an integrated learning model," Ayres said. "What are the ways that we can help students have a less fragmented education and better integrate curricular and co-curricular activities? Learning outside the classroom is just one way we do that. I think we're



Photo courtesy of Patricia Siplon

The St. Michael's College EPA grant team at Faculty Development Institute and Training at the University of Southern Maine on June 17. Left to right: Patricia Siplon, Jeffrey Ayres, Peter Hope and Karen Popovich.

starting to see this at a lot of liberal arts institutions."

Biology professor Peter Hope signed on with these professors because of his own motivations to promote discussion on

climate change and water quality, the primary focuses of the grant.

See EPA GRANT on page 6

Academic support groups to receive new spaces

By Nathan Gabel
Staff Writer

In June, St. Michael's received a grant for \$150,000 to move the offices of Peer Tutoring, the writing center, and accessibility services out of Klein Hall to the upper level of Durick Library. Many faculty hope that this project will be completed by fall 2014.

The plan includes renovating the area on the second floor where the history department is currently located to include a new writing center and new offices for academic service providers such as Mike Samara, the new director of the writing center, and Antonia Messuri, director of academic support services. There will also be a new Peer Tutoring room that accommodates 15 to 20 students with a skylight measuring 540 square feet.

"We've been planning for this initiative for a couple of years now," said Karen Talen-

tino, vice president of academic affairs at St. Michael's. "It was just kind of odd to me that all of these academic services weren't together in a single location where students could go for help."

"I'm excited. It will be easier, and definitely more accessible to get to," said April Hoyt, '14, a psychology and philosophy major who works in the writing center. "We had over 1,400 appointments last year from students needing help. Four hundred of those students never came, maybe because they couldn't even find us."

Talentino said she wrote up the grant application and sent it in April to be considered for funding by the Alden Foundation, a private foundation based in Massachusetts that offers competitive grants for schools, colleges, and private educational organizations to help with their academic expenditures. Talentino said she heard back from the

Alden Foundation in June with their approval to fund the project.

"They've funded other projects here at St. Michael's over the years," Talentino said. "They gave a grant to St. Michael's to create the psychology lab, and they had also funded some work in technology for software for the school. They've been supporting St. Michael's for at least ten or fifteen years now."

John Payne, the director of the Durick Library, caught wind of the plans for the move when they were first in development and offered part of the second floor of the library to be the new Academic Support Services Center.

"I thought the library location was best for students," Payne said. "You find the greatest concentration of students doing academic work here, and it just sort of made sense to give students this one-stop shopping experience."

Talentino said the history department will be relocated throughout St. Edmund's and Jean Marie in more permanent offices to be able to accommodate the renovation and be more easily and readily accessible to students.

Antonia Messuri, director of academic support services, said that she and other faculty being moved from Klein are supportive of the initiative.

"I am excited because I realize it's not about me," Messuri said. "I have a sense that this is going to be really wonderful for the students."

Payne said library staff is equally thrilled for the new addition.

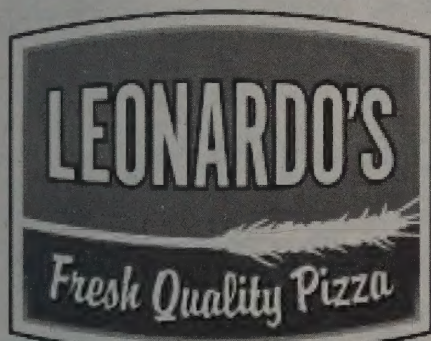
"Everybody in the library likes the idea of having the other academic support services available for students in the building," Payne said. "It's a better use of the space and more beneficial for educating and helping the students."

Talentino suggested that the history department may have to be moved to Klein temporarily before more permanent spaces are allotted to them in the academic buildings. Otherwise, they may be divided up between other programs and services on campus that could use the space.

While Payne, Talentino and other members of the St. Michael's faculty are still deliberating the exact layout of the new addition, the construction is set to begin in the summer of 2014.

"We've been talking about trying to make sort of a start over Christmas break," Payne said. "We're working with architects and contractors, and we're considering it so that during the summer months there is that much less work to do."

See **NEW SPACES** on Page 5



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VEGETARIAN WORKS

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PESTO FETA MEDITERRANEAN

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Olive Oil Garlic Sauce, Vegan Soy Cheese, Fresh Chopped Spinach, Freshly Sliced Red Onions, White Mushrooms, Plum Tomatoes, Black Olives

UNION FOLLOW-UP:

Continued from page 3

"We need to get the union off our campus and everything will go back to the way it was," Michaud said. "Right now our department is in a civil war. What they need to do to is stop the anger and hatred towards the campus."

Siplon said she is hopeful that the college will grow from this controversy. "What I really hope is that this is about growing pains," Siplon said. "This is the first time that the college has really dealt with this specific issue. We've never had a union drive before, we've never had a union and the issues that come with unionization that the college has had to confront and I think that it's really unfortunate that the two custodians were fired in the first place but we have room for making things right."

Letovsky said that it is unfortunate timing that Kingston and Hackney were involved in union negotiations at the time of their dismissals. Michaud said she believes the college was right to fire Kingston.

Custodians at St. Michael's receive performance evaluation forms after each shift that outline 43 tasks that need to be completed, including cleaning toilets, mirrors and countertops. Kingston's stack of yellow evaluation forms are marked with checks and comments from his supervisors. Each custodian is graded out of 100. Kingston's ranged from 70 to 100 with the average grade being between an 80 and 85, according to Kingston.

"The one area that I always scored well with was toilets," Kingston said.

Brian Biron, associate director of custodial services/facilities, declined to comment on the custodial performance evaluations.

"There are no particulars in this case that they can really point to that show that illegal actions have been taken or that discriminatory actions have been taken," Lindau said.

The controversy over the firing of Kingston and Hackney is no longer just an on-campus



Photo by Gracie Barney

From left to right: Diana Marchessault, Piper Krabbenhoft and Alex Dugas, '14, rally with SLAM at the entrance to St. Michael's.

issue. Local press organizations flocked to campus on Wednesday for the press conference hosted by SLAM. In addition, alumni have started a petition to reinstate Kingston and Hackney, and to get the college to apologize for "unscrupulous union busting behavior." The alumni also threatened to withhold financial support. "Until the college does the right thing, we will not donate another dime to the school," the petition reads.

Andrew Driscoll, '09, backs the alumni petition. "The lack of action thus far on the part of our school's administration raises a red flag for me," Driscoll said. "It seems to me that their strategy is to keep their lips sealed, wait it out and hope that we lose interest over time. But that's not going to happen."

"I think the alumni petition is terrific," Siplon said. "Nobody wants to cut off support from this school everybody just wants the school to fix this thing and move forward. Students have said we're serious we want the school to change their position on this and our money is riding on this."

A rally was held by SLAM and the union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), on Friday afternoon near Route 15 and McCarthy Arts Center. More than 60 students, union members, custodians and SLAM members held up signs, chanted and carried around various cleaning tools to catch the attention of rush hour traf-

fic. Some students handed out fliers to cars pulling out of St. Michael's and SLAM members led chants with a megaphone. Kingston, adorned with a St. Michael's College shirt, stood near his bike and waved at cars as they passed by.

Kingston said that he has been involved in a lot of event planning, such as Wednesday's conference and Friday's rally. "The union community support network is taking the most of my time now," Kingston said.

"Yesterday I checked my email and I had about 40 emails on this topic," Kingston said. "I'm usually the kind of guy who gets zero to five, with zero being more common, so it's really exhausting for me to plow through a stack of emails from a combination of SLAM members and activists around the state."

Kingston has no plans to fight to get his job back.

Lindau said that the administration has met 11 times with the union and that the union has cancelled three meetings. There are more meetings for negotiations currently scheduled.

"I mean we're all for workers' rights," Lindau said. "It's so easy to jump on the bandwagon and say 'we're here to defend workers' rights' and 'St. Michael's isn't defending workers' rights.' Well we are in the middle of a union negotiation. That's certainly a conscientious attempt to defend everybody's right to bargaining."

EPA GRANT:

Continued from page 4

"Sometimes it's hard to be optimistic about climate change, especially nowadays," Hope said. "I thought that if students work with community people in small, doable projects they'd see that it can be overcome and that there are a lot of good people working on it."

Hope recently changed the name of one of his courses to emphasize the focus on climate change. Previously called "environmental science" it has since been changed to "the effects of climate change," and will involve work with groups such as Efficiency Vermont, which helps to spread awareness on using fluorescent bulbs, which are more environmentally-sound.

"The goal is to have community sponsors that really need something done so it's a plus-plus," Hope said. "The student works on a good project, learns some good things and produces something that's really valuable to the agencies."

Sustainability Coordinator

Heather Ellis-Lynch also became involved with the grant when she recently began working with the business department to create an awareness campaign for the Organic Garden.

"The grant focuses on climate change and water quality," Ellis-Lynch said. "Organic gardening and what you put into it has an impact on climate change as well as water quality so that's how it suffices the grant's requirements."

Ellis-Lynch is excited for the opportunity to incorporate sustainability into all courses and believes that it should not be exclusively for environmental studies students.

"This grant is looking at academics and how you need to integrate environmental teachings in art, in business, in religion, in history, everywhere," Ellis-Lynch said. "It really does have a role to play. This grant is sort of highlighting that and the fact that we've got Karen from the business department helping is just huge and it's wonderful."

NEW SPACES:

Continued from page 5

Some students and faculty have complained about the duration of the Quad Commons construction, and Payne said he and other staff involved don't want this project to be scrutinized in the same way for taking too long.

This is a much smaller project than Quad Commons, of course, so those involved in the

planning said they are confident it can get done during the summer.

"There's always going to be some hitches along the way, but you just hope they're small ones and easy to overcome," said Payne. "The goal is to make it as easy and efficient as possible for students to get whatever help they need to be successful."



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Pushing to improve cross-cultural understanding

Faculty and students comment on the importance of interactions between international and domestic students

By Chelsea Hicking
S.A. Correspondent

Vincent Mou, '17, is originally from China, though he completed high school in the U.S. He is one of 250 international students at St. Michael's College, according to the St. Michael's website.

"I've been to three different schools in America," Mou said. He described his experiences as generally positive ones, though he certainly faced challenges. One high school he attended required international students to speak English at all times. Any student speaking Chinese, for example, would have to attend a Saturday study session as punishment, as an attempt by the school to improve students' language skills.

"I always think there's a divide between Chinese people and American people especially," Mou said. He recalled the contrasting situation of a Canadian student who spoke French as her primary language. Mou said that, though her English skills were minimal, she had little difficulty assimilating into the culture. She didn't look any different from the American students, and she liked hockey, which was an interest shared by many of the American students. Mou had a much more difficult time assimilating, and noted that the Canadian student's English improved greatly the more socially immersed she was.

"We've had over 20,000 international students from over 80 different countries in the past 60 years," said Mahmoud Arani, professor and chair of the applied linguistics department at St. Michael's. Between fall 2014 and summer 2015 the school is expecting about 100 Chinese students to arrive on campus, he said.

"We don't want them to stick together, we want them to integrate with Americans," Arani said in reference to all international students, adding that

English language skills tend to not improve when international students aren't spending time with American students.

There are programs in place at St. Michael's that are aimed at intercultural interaction, most of which are through the applied linguistics department. A student-run program housed in the study abroad department, Partners for Applying Language Socially (PALS), formed just last year. The students who founded the program were seniors, so this year the program needed new students to continue. Marissa Navedo, '14, and Andrew Marcoux, '14, volunteered to continue the program, along with international student Neera B.K., '14.

"Initially I didn't want to do it," Navedo said, adding that this is her senior year, and she expected that her schedule would be busy, but she wanted to keep the program going. Navedo said that most of the program, in regard to how it runs, is about making sure students are aware of it. Once students fill out applications, which can be found in Klein Hall, and start meeting with their matches, other students will be inspired to apply after seeing their friends participate.

"They talked about making it a club," Navedo said, "but I don't think it's really beneficial. It's not really like a club. There's no structure to it—it's not formal. The S.A. has a lot of restrictions and the only things we need money for are functions."

It is very important to be involved with the people from different languages and cultures and see what processes they go through. —Professor Mahmoud Arani

Navedo tells American students to "just be friendly and really try, because most of it is just putting in the effort to try to get to know people."

Navedo said that PALS can



Photo by Jessica Campbell

Chinese international student Vincent Mou, '17, enrolled at St. Michael's after completing high school in the U.S.

provide a way to help international students transition and to get to a point where they feel comfortable in their new environment. "Most of them are very open to getting to know Americans but they don't know where to start," she said.

Marcoux was abroad in Beijing when he first heard about PALS and was immediately interested in participating.

"I know how I felt when I was over there, I know what I needed, I know how my particular program helped me. So, assuming that the majority of students go through the same exact thing, which I feel is the case, I can see things from their point of view and know how to help with that," Marcoux said.

He later expressed similar thoughts to those of Navedo, saying that it is important to expand the program and make sure students know the opportunities available to them for getting to know students with different cultural backgrounds who speak differ-

ent languages.

PALS has focused on study abroad returnees for participation by American students. Arani suggested that involving American students before they go abroad would be beneficial to both the American students and international students.

"I'm an international faculty [member] myself. It is very important to be involved with the people from different languages and cultures and see what processes they go through," Arani said. "Usually their stories will help you to expect what is coming when you go overseas. The culture shock is a major issue for a lot of international students and creates a lot of anxiety."

Arani suggested a two-credit course for students considering study abroad. This independent study he has suggested would consist of activities such as giving a tour of downtown Burlington to an international student, or taking an international student to dinner.

"Just try to break the barriers between the two cultures and make sure they understand the American culture," Arani said. He continued to explain the chal-

lenges many international students face coming from a culture where they have a solid support system, and now find themselves in an environment where that support system is absent.

"They're supported, they feel like they can knock on anybody's door and get help. All of a sudden they come to the U.S., an individualistic society, and people are very kind and very nice to them, but all of a sudden they feel they have no support system. They feel lonely, and sometimes they cry, sometimes they get depressed," Arani said.

"I don't think the student body is as welcoming as it should be," said Mickey O'Neill, '14, who studied abroad in Samoa during the spring semester of 2013. She explained that her program was very welcoming, and that students in her program were interspersed in their housing, giving international and native students the opportunity to live together.

See **INTERNATIONAL** on page 10

Local aid officials offer insight into award process

By Cara Chapman
Features Editor

When making their plans for higher education, students have two questions to answer: Which schools did I get into? Which schools can I afford?

Over two-thirds of undergraduates in the U.S. received some sort of financial aid for the 2011-12 academic year, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Education. Student financial services offices at St. Michael's and other local institutions take into account certain factors and guidelines when deciding whether to award students need-based aid, merit-based aid or both.

Nelberta Lunde, director of financial aid for new student aid and scholarships at St. Michael's, said that around 90 percent of students at the college receive some sort of financial aid. When it comes to need-based aid, St. Michael's uses guidelines set forth by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Lunde said. This model utilizes both student loans and scholarships to fulfill need.

The net price calculator on the St. Michael's website reveals that a student's state of residence also plays a role in the awarding of aid. For example, the calculator projected that a student from California could receive \$10,000 more in grants and scholarships than a student from Vermont.

"That's because of distance and trying to recruit from that area," Lunde said.

However, students from Kansas, about halfway between Vermont and California, only receive an increase of about \$1,500 in grants and scholarships.

"It may be because we don't get many students there and it's not a key place," Lunde said.

"A student's residence does not factor into the amount of institutional aid they may or may not receive," said Mike McLaughlin, director of financial aid operations at Middlebury, in an email interview.

Lunde said that a student's GPA plays a role in the amount of aid he or she may receive, causing merit-based aid to either increase or decrease depending on what range it falls into. Lunde also said that a student's involve-

ment in extracurricular activities in high school plays a larger role in the admissions process than in deciding how much aid he or she may receive.

Middlebury enforces a need-blind admissions policy where "students are admitted based purely on merit," McLaughlin said.

"Along with this need-blind policy comes our commitment to meet the full demonstrated need for every student admitted to the college," McLaughlin said. "Our goal is to make our education experience affordable for every student who attends, regardless of family resources."

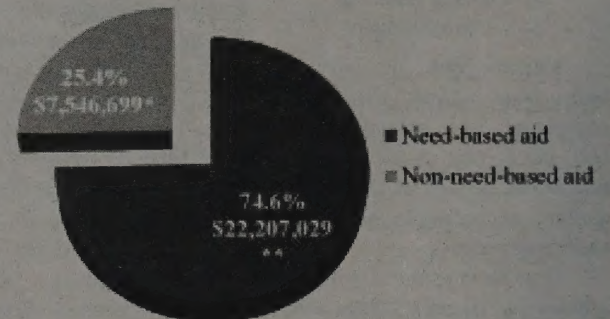
"We do not offer any merit awards that take academic, athletic or extracurricular activity into consideration," McLaughlin added.

Lunde said that, even with different opportunities for aid, some students do not qualify for any assistance whatsoever.

"They're no-need or they just don't have the criteria to match anything that we have to offer them," Lunde said.

Todd Moravec, director of student financial services at

Types of scholarships and grants awarded by St. Michael's for 2011-12



*Excludes non-need-based aid used to meet need.

**Includes non-need-based aid used to meet need.

Information provided by St. Michael's Common Data Set 2011-12.

Infographic by Cara Chapman

Information from St. Michael's Common Data Set for the 2011-12 academic year indicates that need-based aid constituted 75 percent of the scholarships and grants awarded.

SUNY Plattsburgh, said 12 percent of students at the university do not receive any financial assistance.

"They didn't do the FAFSA, they didn't do the TAP (the New York State Tuition Assistance Program) application, they declined their loans and they

weren't eligible for any scholarships," Moravec said. "Or they did a FAFSA and they did a TAP application but they weren't eligible because income was too high. Sometimes all they're eligible for is student loans and they decline, which is good." See **STUDENT AID** on page 10

Personal Counseling Office & Student Health Services



Personal Counseling Appointment

Stop by our office in the Klein Building or call us at (802) 654-2547 and ask to set up an appointment with a personal counselor.

Brief Half-Hour Drop-In Meetings

The hours are:
Tuesdays 10:30 – noon,
Thursdays 1 – 2:30
Fridays 10:30 – noon
(First Come, First Served within these times)

Health Services

Stop by the offices in Alumni Hall for Walk-In Service or call (802) 654-2234 to set up an appointment.

Are you off to a Good Start?

- Review your syllabi and make a long-term plan
- Divide your long range tasks into weekly and daily "to do" lists
- Stay true to your plan, adjust when necessary, but make a "Plan B" if your first plan doesn't work
- Balance work and fun
- Speak up to Professors or Staff about concerns or needs

Take Good Care and Best Wishes for Success!

St. Michael's College is also a member of the online college mental health resource, ULifeLine. Visit them for information on different health topics <http://www.ulifeline.org/>

Tweets expose life on campus

Popularity growing for parody St. Michael's Twitter accounts

By Juliana Summers
Features Editor

It started with a crush.

Alliot Crush, the original source of campus crushes and gossip, paved the way for an influx of new St. Michael's-related Twitter and Facebook accounts that are currently drawing in a large audience.

In April, @SMC_Crushes launched on Twitter, now with a total of 490 followers, while SMC Confessions, started the same month on Facebook, has grown to an audience of 1,199 "likes."

Within the first week of the fall 2013 semester, three new Twitter accounts have gained considerable attention - @smcvt-gossipgirl, @heardinthe300s and @miketheknight04.

Mary Nicholson, '15, said she prefers @HeardInThe300s, @SMC_Crushes and @MiketheKnight04, but does not follow @smcvtgossipgirl.

"I was, however, a fan of the Formspring version of Alliot Crush. May it rest in peace," she said.

Christian Camerota, assistant director of marketing for social media at St. Michael's, said he believes this trend of parody social media accounts was "spearheaded" originally by events like the election and from celebrity culture. Broad memes are generated from these, which eventually "trickle down to smaller places like St. Mike's," he said.

Not seeing these accounts as a threat to the St. Michael's official accounts, Camerota said he hopes it's a way of students expressing the college and what it's all about by capturing what happens in real life, "in really small, digestible bites."

"As a member of the marketing department, I couldn't make a meme with construction equipment on it that says 'let me play you the song of our people,'" Camerota said. "But I do think there's a place for that because it's important for students to be able to good-naturedly document and share their experiences



Photo by Sheila Bogan

Mckenzie Bergan reads through the St. Mike's Cofessions page on Facebook.

with each other, whatever they might be."

Coordinator of Marketing and Communications at Vermont Public Radio and adjunct St. Michael's social media professor Michelle Owens said that in general, she loves parody accounts, and that they create a good balance to the professional side of Twitter and social media.

"So long as the posts are playful, fun and not offensive, I think they can actually boost marketing efforts on the whole, especially for a place like a college where prospective students are looking for a sense of what life is like there, not just what's on the tour or in the brochure," Owens said. "For current students, I think it gives them a voice and a place to participate in and share the little quirks that make their college experience unique."

The St. Michael's-related accounts in particular are not followed only by students. Camerota said he even used some of the memes relating to St. Michael's in presentations he's given because "they're so right on."

"If they're vulgar, or if they're talking about issues that are sensitive, then I think staff and faculty might have a different opinion," he said. "There are some topics and situations serious enough that they probably don't belong in a meme."

Camerota said he would ask creators of these accounts to remember that use of St. Michael's

official logos is "a big issue for us because anything that has our official logo on it is branded by the college and we're responsible for the content."

June, creator of @HeardInThe300s, who requested to go by her middle name, said that so far there have been no problems regarding conflict with official St. Michael's accounts or any controversial content from the @HeardInThe300s account.

As a 2004 grad, Camerota said he couldn't imagine what it would be like to currently be a student at St. Michael's.

"Everything is more documented now, and that's cool in some respects and really dangerous in other respects," he said. "Nobody would ever have a camera on their phone or their anything when I was in college. If you had a camera it was probably an instant camera that took 20 blurry pictures. I'd be afraid to make a mistake now and have it documented on 13 different people's iPhones."

The concept of parody accounts is not necessarily an entirely new one, according to Owens, but rather a new medium.

"When I was in college we'd occasionally see these 'You Know You Went To BU When' articles published in a paper or online somewhere. It's the same concept, but now that it's on Twitter, more people can participate, and in real time," she said.

See **TWITTER** on page 10

What is your favorite social media parody account?

Campus SPEAKS



"Mike the Knight"
Carlos Sian, '15



"Michael Scott"
Hanna Thumser, '15



"IR cats"
Kirsten Wilson, '14



"Bad luck Brian"
Maeve Power, '17



"College student"
Sarah Ames, '14



"Top conservative cat"
Trevor Madore, '14



"I don't really pay attention to them."
Will Marrinan, '16

TWITTER:

Continued from page 9

New accounts are coming and going frequently. Camerota attributes this to the need to be consistent rather than “incredibly inventive.”

“If what [the audience] expects changes, that disrupts the flow and people tend to unfollow you because of that,” he said. “All great authors will tell you that the hardest part of writing is making yourself sit down and

write every single day because it becomes boring after a while. Keeping up with something is harder than just firing it up initially.”

Of the accounts started during the fall 2013 semester, @HeardInThe300s takes the lead with 277 followers. All three continue to steadily gain new followers.

June, creator of @HeardInThe300s, said “I think it’s easy for people to start and people

feel a little bit bolder when they are anonymous.”

All tweets from the @HeardInThe300s account are generated from what happens near June’s townhouse.

“My roommates and I were just sitting in the living room one night and our windows were open and we heard this quote from people walking by just being absurd, so it just kind of spiraled from there,” she said.

INTERNATIONAL:

Continued from page 7

“It makes me look more critically at the way we treat international students,” O’Neill said, adding that her program made a great effort to reach out to all students, and provided a variety of activities to help integrate international and native students.

“I understand it’s pretty scary to be on your own,” O’Neill said, adding that she understands the inclination to stay with what is comfortable and familiar.

“PALS is a great idea,” O’Neill said. “Having been somewhere where people are so accepting makes me wish that kind of sentiment could be reflected in the way that St. Michael’s interacts with international students.” She is considering participating in the program.

O’Neill commented on the divide between American and international students on campus, noting a visible separation between international and American students. She echoed Arani’s concerns about international students finding it diffi-

cult to immerse themselves into the culture.

“One more thing we could do to help our American students and international students would be to have more ambassador housing,” Arani said, noting that there is only one building dedicated to ambassador housing on campus.

He added, “We can use the ambassador model across the board so that all of our undergraduate students have a chance to meet an international student or at least if not on a regular basis, once in a while.”

STUDENT AID:

Continued from page 8

Lunde said that, typically, students who have 100 percent of their total costs covered have outside scholarships combined with the aid they received from St. Michael’s.

“We don’t give over tuition, so room and board would still be a factor,” Lunde said. She cited the Presidential Scholarship as one of the few scholarships that covers full tuition.

“The only ones that receive a full ride are basketball players,” Lunde said. “That’s just the college’s policy. We don’t select them from this office.”

“We are not allowed to consider athleticism, or athletic participation, in the awarding of our financial aid,” Moravec said. According to the National Letter of Intent on the National Collegiate

Athletic Association’s (NCAA) website, Division III colleges like SUNY Plattsburgh can only award academic scholarships.

“It is possible for a student to receive assistance for 100 percent of their financial need through a combination of federal, state and University of Vermont grants, scholarships and loans,” said Norman Craige, associate director of financial services at the UVM, in an email interview. UVM’s status as a Division I college means that it can award athletic scholarships, the NCAA website said. UVM’s Common Data Set showed that the institution awarded \$4,185,095 in non-need-based athletic awards during the 2011-2012 academic year.

On all four campuses, certain circumstances can translate into adjustments to a current student’s financial aid package.

Lunde said income changes, illness in the family and loss of a job could affect how a student’s need is assessed, while Craige included a change in the number of college students in a household.

“A decline in academic performance could also impact merit aid,” Craige said.

Moravec said that SUNY Plattsburgh students may have multiple opportunities for increase in merit-based scholarships once they are already on campus.

“For continuing students, sometimes we have additional scholarship opportunities,” Moravec said. “The academic departments choose the scholarships. They award that money and they look at GPA also. Extracurricular activities probably come into play more when aca-

demical departments are looking at awarding our scholarships.”

Moravec said the student financial services office at SUNY Plattsburgh always assesses aid on a case-by-case basis, taking into account federal and New York state regulations and how a student’s traits fit within those regulations. McLaughlin said that Middlebury also utilizes this type of model.

“We award student aid on an individual basis,” McLaughlin said. “We also review every student’s application annually. We do not batch-award our students by computer. We strive to have personal connections with our families.”

“We strive to award aid based on general rules and guidelines as opposed to individual case-by-case decisions,” Craige said. He added that UVM

uses this model to effectively utilize financial aid and scholarships in an effort to “attract and retain students while maintaining expenditures within available resources.”

Lunde said that the St. Michael’s student financial services office combines the two models when deciding how to allocate funds for financial aid.

“Generally, we have these parameters for select groups of students, and those we apply and that’s how they’re packaged,” Lunde said. “If they appeal, that’s when the case-by-case part comes in.” Lunde estimated that approximately 10 percent of students appeal their financial aid packages.

“It’s the only way you can do it,” said Lunde of St. Michael’s two-part approach.



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Alumna to expand community-engaged learning on campus

Rachael Bowdish, '13, works to develop St. Michael's partnership with the Boys and Girls Club

By Tarah Srethwatanakul
Staff Writer

Rachael Bowdish, '13, recently returned to campus with the aim of expanding the partnership between St. Michael's and the Boys and Girls Club of Burlington as an AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). Her duties include organizing programs that promote college readiness to the Club's students while providing St. Michael's students with opportunities to participate in service learning.

The Club serves roughly 250 low-income students between grades K-12. Through its Early Promise Program, students receive constant academic guidance and support, leading to a guaranteed space at a Vermont state college.

"We want to get St. Mike's behind this as much as we can," Bowdish said.

The partnership between St. Michael's and the Club originated from the 2012 student-funded Fix it with Five grant competition, from which the club received \$10,000. Activities with the Club are currently integrated in MOVE's After School Games program and in three undergraduate courses as experiential or service learning components.

In addition to homework help sessions, on-campus activities include teen nights and Frisbee games. Bowdish said that allowing Club students to discover "what college has to offer beyond the academic side" is an important factor in encouraging college readiness.

"Working with these kids, you realize how little people have been investing in their lives and their education, even though it might not be apparent," Bowdish

said. "It's really nice to see them make connections and work towards things that you know will benefit them. You know you're acting as somebody finally being consistent in their lives."

In Professor Mary-Beth Doyle's Teaching in Inclusive Middle and High School Classrooms course, St. Michael's students establish two semester-long goals with club students from grades 5-11, and engage in weekly homework help sessions to ensure steady mentoring and academic support.

Doyle, who has committed to working with the club through this practicum for the next three years, emphasized the importance of the club students' trust in their tutors – particularly with the lack of stability in these students' lives.

"I think the hardest thing for St. Michael's students is the realities of some of the stories that the kids bring," Doyle said. "One of the club's kids is in State's custody. It's not unusual for her to find out that she's not going home some nights, and she's basically managing her own life on top of being a high school student."

Professor Joan Wagner, who teaches the Critical Perspectives for Service half-course, also has five students participating in homework help this semester.

"The course takes students through different perspectives of service and challenges some notions about service," Wagner said. "The key component of the

It's really nice to see them make connections and work towards things that you know will benefit them. You know you're acting as somebody finally being consistent in their lives.

-Rachael Bowdish

course is to actually be engaged in service while they're doing it."

Wagner assured that the



Photos by Tarah Srethwatanakul

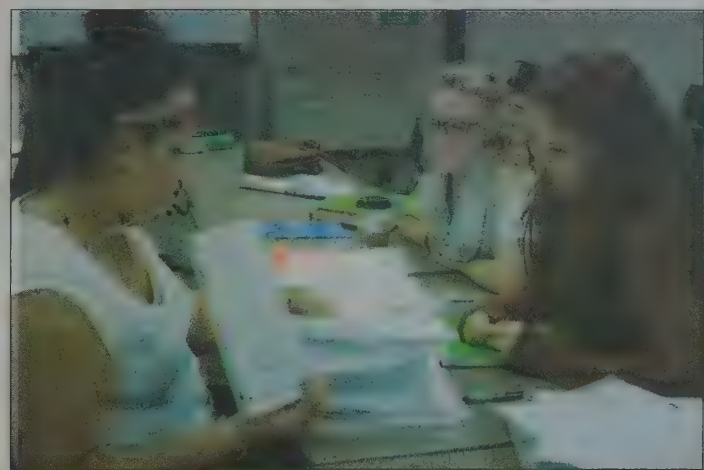
Above: Rachael Bowdish, '13, works in her office in Klein Hall to coordinate activities for the Boys and Girls Club. Below: Secondary school education majors Jessica George (front right) and Maura O'Riordan (back right) work with a Boys and Girls Club student during a homework help session.

open enrollment course will be offered in the spring and will continue to partner with the club in the future.

"Our partnership is very relationship and mentorship focused; that is the characterizing feature," Wagner said. "We're all meeting the same needs, but the students – depending on what class they're coming from – might have different ways that they're asked to use and process what they're learning."

In order to continue supporting club students throughout the year, Bowdish and Wagner are planning a summer academic enrichment program that will last at least two weeks on campus and involve St. Michael's student volunteers.

"We're looking at the year-round support, because needs don't go away," Wagner said. "They don't just happen during the traditional college semester, so we want to really con-



sider the full scope of their needs and play a role regardless of our academic year schedule."

"We would be particularly working with teens and pre-teens in raising their aspirations for college," Wagner said. "Inviting students to feel what it's like to be on a college campus is just as important as preparing them academically for the ability to succeed."

Bowdish said that she plans to involve the organic garden as an active teaching method; club

students would learn basic accounting to purchase supplies for the garden as well as acquire some knowledge on plant biology in learning how to grow and harvest vegetables.

"We don't want them to be sitting down and filling out a worksheet," Bowdish said. "We want to be teaching them lessons that they can apply when they're back at school but also lessons that they can take back to their own homes."



Left: Will Thompson (left) and Nate Robeson dip their tires in the Atlantic Ocean at Long Island Sound at the beginning of their trip on June 16.

Above: Thompson lays out his supplies before packing them for his cross-country ride.

Former Purple Knights pedal across the U.S.

Two St. Michael's alumni ride across America, raise almost \$3,000 for World Bicycle Relief

By Drew Prescott
Sports Editor

It took Will Thompson and Nate Robeson 47 days to ride their bikes from Mamaronek, N.Y., to Bellingham, Wash. The former St. Michael's students leveraged their cross-country journey to raise money for World Bicycle Relief (W.B.R.), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving African communities through the distribution of bicycles. According to Thompson, the duo rode an average of 75 miles each day, and accumulated almost \$3,000 dollars for the cause.

"Our goal was originally to raise about two grand," Thompson said. "Right now we have \$2,895 and there are still donations coming in."

Their journey began on June 16, departing from Thompson's driveway in southern New York, bikes loaded with basic supplies and a few articles of clothing.

"We really didn't take a lot with us," Thompson said. "We each had a tent and I had a mess kit for cooking. I brought 3 bike jerseys and an off-bike t-shirt."

As their trip progressed, the two relied greatly on the hospi-

ality of strangers for shelter and food.

"Everyone was unbelievably nice," Robeson said. "We had strangers take money out of their wallet and say 'hey, what you guys are doing is awesome, take this and go get some dinner.'"

Thompson also spoke highly about the people they met on their ride, recalling that several times people invited them to stay at their homes.

"The trip really improved my faith in humanity," Thompson said. "Total strangers would go out of their way to help us."

Robeson was also grateful for the kindness they were shown along the way, especially after his bike was damaged in a collision with a wild animal.

"We were riding in Pennsylvania and all of the sudden a deer jumped out of the woods and ran straight into my bike," Robeson said. "It ended up breaking one of my back spokes. Luckily another cyclist happened to come upon us riding in the opposite direction. The guy turned around and led us to the nearest bike shop. It was really nice of him."

After reaching the bike shop, Robeson's good fortune

continued.

"We started talking to the guys in the shop and told them about our trip. They were so pumped on what we were doing they didn't even charge me for the repair."

"WBR is such a great organization; it was awesome to be able to spread the word about what they're doing," Thompson said.

Founded by F.K. Day, the executive vice president of SRAM Bicycles, World Bicycle Relief is based in Chicago, and has distribution centers across Africa.

Robeson and Thompson had the opportunity to meet Day when they passed through Chicago on their journey.

"I knew that the WBR headquarters were in Chicago, and we made a last-minute decision to stop in and introduce ourselves," Thompson said.

Jorge Selva is the communications and development assistant for W.B.R. in Chicago, and remembers the day the Robeson and Thompson stopped by the office.

"Yeah I got to meet them," Selva said. "They're nice guys, and it was great that they got to

meet F.K., he is out of the office a lot of the time. It was lucky that the day they came by he was around."

Selva went on to provide some insight into the organization and its bicycles, which are built to withstand the demands of the African terrain.

"Our bicycles are specifically made for the people who need them," Selva said. "Aside from the most basic needs of food water and shelter, a reliable form of transportation is incredibly important."

Robeson touched on this as well, describing the impact the bicycles can have on children in Africa.

"It's such a great cause," Robeson said. "When kids have access to bicycles they can get from place to place so much quicker. Instead of having to spend three hours walking to get water for their family, the kids have more time to focus on things like education."

Robeson enthusiastically reflected on his summer of riding.

"It was such an awesome trip," Robeson said. "The best way to see the country is on a bicycle and anyone can do it. I still don't really consider myself a cy-

clist, I had almost no experience and we did very little training. We just went for it."

Robeson had much less prior cycling experience than Thompson, and it took him several days to adjust to the physical demands of their journey.

"The first week was definitely the hardest, I was pretty sore," Robeson said. "But eventually we got used to it and it was like - hey, what do you want to do today? Ride a bike? Sure."

Despite finishing the trip in early August, Thompson, who is living in Washington, plans to continue to work with W.B.R.

"Next summer I'm planning to ride from California to Costa Rica, and the money I raise will go to W.B.R.," Thompson said. "When we met F.K. Day he said to us, 'When you're out there on the road, struggling up a hill, just think of all the lives you will be changing by with the money you raise.' I'll never forget that."

To check out other photos from Thompson and Robeson's trip, check out their Facebook page, "Will & Nate Cycle America."



Photos contributed by Will & Nate Cycle America

Above: Thompson rides toward the Rocky Mountains. Below left: Thompson and Robeson celebrate the Fourth of July in Mississippi. Below right: Thompson and Robeson dip their tires in the Pacific Ocean on the final day of their trip.



Pride Vermont brings community together with annual parade

By Claire Martin and Bryanna Murphy

The Pride Vermont Parade filled the streets of downtown Burlington last Sunday, Sept. 15, with costumes, colors and supporters. The annual parade began at 12:30 p.m. at the south end of Church St. and ended with a festival at Battery Park. Marchers of all ages walked, drove and biked the parade route sporting colorful signs and banners. Rainbow flags lined the pathway that welcomed the parade to the festival.

"This year we have a bigger parade than in years past," said Peter Jacobsen, the executive director of Vermont Cares. "We have more groups organized, and bigger employers involved. Some of the big employers wanted to show that they care about their LGBT employees."

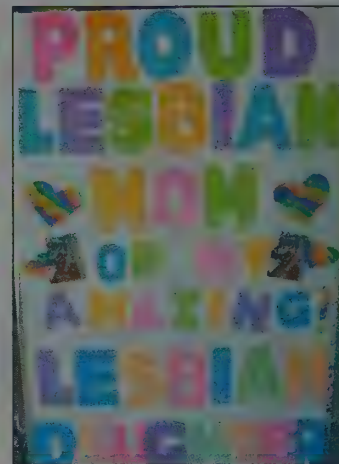
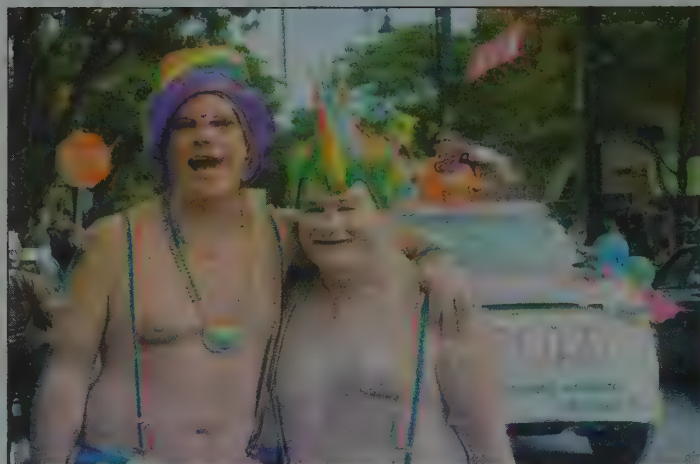
Some of the sponsors of this year's parade included Ben and Jerry's, TD Bank and Seven Days. These organizations showcased their support in various ways, from painted cars to informational tents that filled

the park. According to Jacobsen, the committee that organized the parade and festival consisted of about 20 people who spent close to 10 months preparing for the parade and festival.

Annual pride parades take place all across the country each year, bringing together supporters and members of the LGBT community. Although Vermont's parade is on the smaller side, partially due to the size of Burlington, the energy of the celebration is full and vibrant. Skeeter Sanders, has been attending the parade since 1995. He has traveled to Boston, New York, Montreal and Toronto to attend different pride celebrations but considers Burlington his home.

"It's uniquely Vermont," Sanders said. "It has a much more down home flavor. There are aspects of this parade that culturally don't exist anywhere else."

According to the Pride Vermont website, the parade began as an anniversary celebration of the Stonewall riots. Over time it has evolved from a protest into



Photos by Claire Martin and Bryanna Murphy

Left: Dan Royea (left) and Ed Dunn (right) walk the parade in pride outfits. Right: Carla Lomgo (not pictured) made sign in support of her daughter, Theresa Cardinali (not pictured).

a celebration of the LGBT community.

Euan Bear of Franklin County has marched in every Pride Vermont Parade since 1983, missing only two. "It changed from a protest march against inequality to a parade of celebration," she said. "Most of that happened in 2000 when civil unions were passed. It became more celebratory."

Stan Baker has also been involved in the Pride Vermont

Parade since its beginning. "It was really a brave thing to march in 30 years ago because a lot of people were not out yet," he said. "It was a much smaller group, but with a huge spirit because people were really taking a risk."

"I love seeing the different kinds of people like the drag queens, dykes on bikes and the kids with their parents. I like that kind of rainbow community," Baker said.

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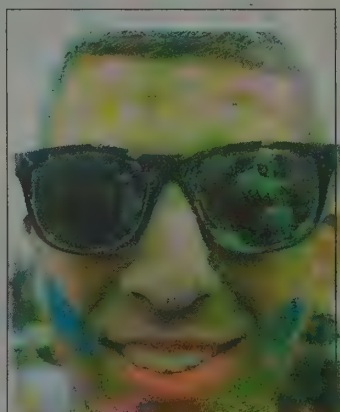
Local charity raises nearly \$3,000 through Color Vibe 5k

By Shelia Bogan and Jessica Campbell

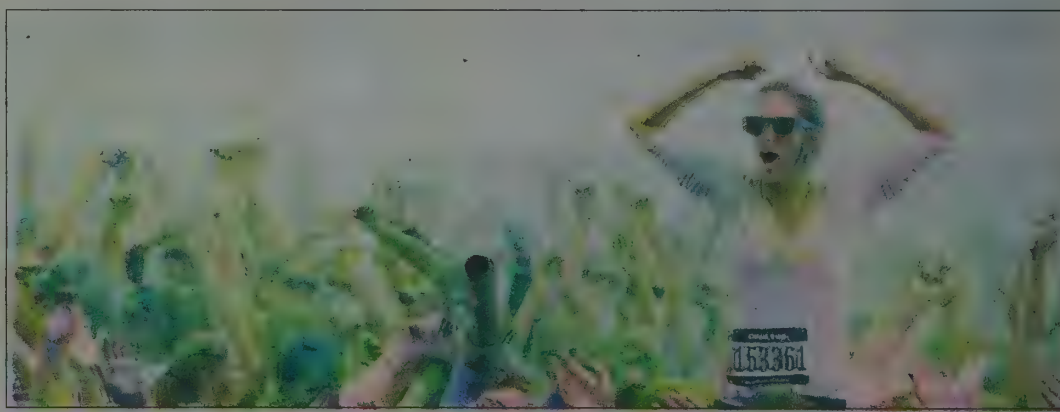
About 3,000 people ran through huge clouds of colored powder during the Color Vibe Vermont 5k on Saturday, Sept. 14. The race took place in Vergennes at the Basin Harbor Club and was partnered with Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, a Vermont camp for children who have or have had cancer.

The event raised nearly \$3,000 for the camp according to Hattie Johnson, director of development at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta. Johnson said that the campers range in age from seven to 17 and do not pay for their time at camp.

The camp runs year round and is located in South Hero on 103 acres of land. The state-of-the-art facilities and medical care offered allow for campers to attend year-round no matter how



Left: Nate Gabel, '15, ran the color vibe 5k. Right: Kristen Montgomery, from Montpelier, dances on the shoulders of a fellow runner after the race Saturday, Sept. 14.



Photos by Jessica Campbell

severe their cancer is.

"We can do anything from a Band-Aid to chemotherapy," Johnson said. There are about three paid positions at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta and the rest, including medical staff, are volunteers. Since the camp does not receive state or federal aid, they rely on fundraising to cover the expenses

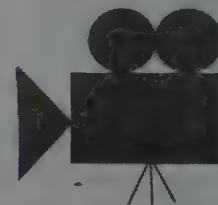
for all of the campers and facilities, Johnson said.

Their annual budget is \$700,000, half of which is raised through events like the Color Vibe 5k. They participate in the santa run, golf tournaments, and many other fundraising events throughout the year. This was the first year that they were part-

nered with Color Vibe, and Johnson said that it went very well.

"The camp itself is great for the kids," said Dave Eaton, whose grandson was diagnosed with Leukemia at age eight and has been attending the camp ever since. "It makes them forget what they have."

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Drake sits alone on top

On new album, the rapper reveals a harder self

By Paul Palladino
Guest Reviewer

During one of his many show stealing guest verses since 2011's "Take Care," Drake raps "The boy home, used to take the bus to the block/Now summer-time whips come through and bust up the block." The Boy, as he likes to call himself, made it.

On his new album, "Nothing Was The Same," Drake reveals a new, more confident, and at times caustic, rapper refining his signature sound to impressive results. And he sings, too, because he's Drake.

Opening the album boasting about making \$20 million off the record, he sets the tone that he isn't holding back on this album. Lead single "Started From The Bottom," attacks the narrative of Drake, a teenage actor, growing up privileged over a dark, haunting beat.

But his brashness isn't limited to his raps. On "Furthest Thing," he smoothly ethers his old friends. "People I believed in, they don't even show they face now/What they got to say now?/Nothin' they can say now/Nothin' really changed but still they look at me a way now," he sings. Clearly, "no new friends" is still in effect.

Always a hit maker, he puts his singing to good use throughout "N.W.T.S." Feel-good hit single "Hold On, We're Going Home," calls for a two-step from even the biggest squares in the world with its 80s inspired beat. Several verses throughout the rest of the album find Drake tiptoeing the line between singing and rapping so you can get a few more lines stuck in your head.

The album continues the sophistication of the spaced-out, post Kanye-808s sound from Drake's main producer, Noah "40" Shebib. In contrast to the puffed up lyrics and bravado, 40 strips down the beats to their bare essentials. Lyrics are the focus of the album and the bursts of energy in the beats are few, but well-placed.

Outside of the two singles



Photo Cash Money Records

already released, high energy crossover radio singles are absent from this album. Drake and 40 bring us deeper into their world on this album making it extremely cohesive sonically and thematically.

As with any Drake album, he spends plenty of time on his favorite topic: women. He replaces much of the somber, reflection from "Take Care" with optimism that things will work out. He quizzes an old flame on "From Time" with "Who you settlin' for? Who better for you than the boy, huh?"

In another show of his self-assurance, "N.W.T.S." breaks the recent hip-hop mold of solo albums having endless features. Not including the bonus tracks, there are only five guests and they mostly just do choruses. With Drake doing nearly all the heavy lifting, the album is the fulfillment of his proclamation on "5AM in Toronto" that all of hip-hop "sounds like Drake featuring Drake." Not that there's anything wrong with that.

The God-MC, Jay-Z, provides the only rap guest verses on closing track "Pound Cake/Paris Morton Music 2." Drake, with his confidence bubbling over, has the gall to spit "Overly

focused, it's far from the time to rest now/Debates growing 'bout who they think is the best now." After Jay's two verses of stunting, Drake returns over a new beat to declare "I'm 'bout to drop something crazy and I say I'm the greatest of my generation."

After his verse on "Control" claiming the throne last month, Kendrick Lamar might take exception to Drake's statement. Unfortunately for Kendrick, Drake doesn't fear him. "I know good and well that Kendrick's not murdering me, at all, in any platform," Drake told Billboard. End of discussion.

Drake taking the crown while sharing the stage with one of the greatest of all time is fitting. The only thing left for him to do is stop calling himself "The Boy." Another nickname is now more appropriate: Young King.

Drake, "Nothing was the Same" comes out today.

Submit music, movie and book reviews to
lconnors@mail.smcvt.edu

SMC Style Files

By Juliana Summers

It's all about animal print, but no, not the animal print you're thinking.

Last Friday, I spent a few hours in Burlington window shopping. Walking briskly past the persistent Teavana employees who would undoubtedly try offering me some sort of tea I knew I wouldn't want to try, I was suddenly stopped mid-stride by Pac Sun's window display – the intense glare of a tiger's face graced the front of a black cropped sweatshirt, and I felt instantly compelled to go check out the piece.

Sure, I have my fair share of cheetah or leopard print accessories (headbands, shoes and whatnot), but I'm not much for image-printed tops. Still, to my surprise, the boldness of this sweatshirt's design was strangely appealing.

Although cheetah-print scarves and flats have their time and place this fall, we're seeing a whole new face of this trend – literally.

From high fashion to budget-friendly brands, animal faces are popping up everywhere.

Kenzo Paris perfected the stylized tiger print sweaters and

sweatshirts – selling for anywhere from \$200 to \$500. Maybe it's the college student budget talking, but I'll opt for a Zara or Topshop version.

Naturally, I was skeptical at first. Who would want to wear a tiger face on their shirt all day? Isn't animal print taking it far enough? Or what even happened to a simple, classic chunky knit sweater without a large, gaudy face distracting from the overall look?

Well, It's time to face your "fierce" and go for the bold.

When paired with a pencil skirt or mixing with a printed pant – call me crazy, but this trend is all the rage. Yes, a sweatshirt can now be chic!

Not only sweatshirts, but tops, crop tops, sweaters – you name it, animal faces are everywhere.

Lions and tigers and bears, oh yes! This look doesn't even necessarily apply to just tiger print. We're seeing dogs, birds, cats and more. Have a favorite animal? Wear it! (Not literally, or we'll have PETA coming after us).

We've got the eye of the tiger, do you?



Photo by Juliana Summers

Lauren Carter, '15, wears a tiger-printed sweatshirt from Zara on Wednesday.

Burlington Book Festival showcases local authors

By Lauren Kopchik
Staff Writer

The ninth annual Burlington Book Festival took place in several areas downtown this weekend. The three-day event, beginning on Friday, featured work from over 60 Vermont authors and literary organizations.

Among the many authors attending the event was Dave Landers, Ph.D., professor of psychology and gender studies. His first book, titled "I Wish He'd Taught Me How to Shave," received plenty of praise and responses from the community.

"I wasn't really sure what people's reactions were going to be to the book, so quite frankly I'm blown away," said Landers, who presented his work at Fletcher Free Library on Saturday afternoon. "We sold the first 150 books in six days."

"I Wish He'd Taught Me How to Shave" is a compilation of student essays over the past eight years from Landers' Men and Masculinities class. At the reading on Saturday, he discussed how personal relationships with one's father can shape the idea of what a man is. He presented a project from a former student called "The Whey of Man," a reinvented protein powder jar that displays words like "aggression" and "control" on the outside label and positive words such as "loving" and "intimate" after unscrewing the lid. "That's all the stuff that's on the

inside, locked down and sealed in tight," Landers said. "It's a pretty powerful visual."

During his talk, Landers touched on subjects from "dads who are wonderful but are not like anyone else's dad" to more serious topics including fathers who struggle with alcohol or drugs, and how these different relationships can affect children.

After receiving the invitation to take part in the festival, Landers quickly noticed that it would take place during homecoming weekend. He spoke with the alumni office so that the book festival event would appear in the weekend's program. At Saturday's event, 13 people attended to discuss the book and have it signed.

"It was cool to read my brother's," said Jill Monahan, '12. She and her brother both took Landers' class, and their essays appear alongside each other in the book. "They were pretty similar, actually," she said, noting that her family could recognize which piece was hers as well.

Other authors at the Burlington Book Festival included Julia Alvarez, writer-in-residence at Middlebury College and known for several books including her recent "A Wedding in Haiti," and Rachel Carter, an emerging popular young adult author. Carter's most recent book, "This Strange and Familiar Place," is the sequel to "So Close to You" and the sec-

ond part to a planned trilogy.

"I think it's the most powerful writing that can be done," Carter said of the young adult genre. "I think it's the time of your life when not the most things happen, but you feel them the most strongly. And to me that was always an interesting time period. I feel like I remember more about being 16 than I remember about being 22."

Carter presented at Radio Bean on Saturday night, where a large crowd turned up to listen to her read a currently unpublished nonfiction piece called, "Epitaph." Carter's reading was one stop of many along the Literary Pub Crawl, a completely new feature for the Burlington Book Festival facilitated by the Renegade Writers Collective. The young organization serves as a community for Burlington-based writers and organizes classes, workshops and special events.

"It's been amazing to meet all these really successful, interesting writers in Vermont," said Carter, who moved to Burlington from New York City about five weeks ago. "I was really nervous moving here that I wouldn't have a community of writers, and I couldn't have been more wrong."

The Renegade Writers Collective, in partnership with the local art collective ArtsRiot, organized the pub crawl with a variety of local bars and restaurants including Magic Hat, Manhattan

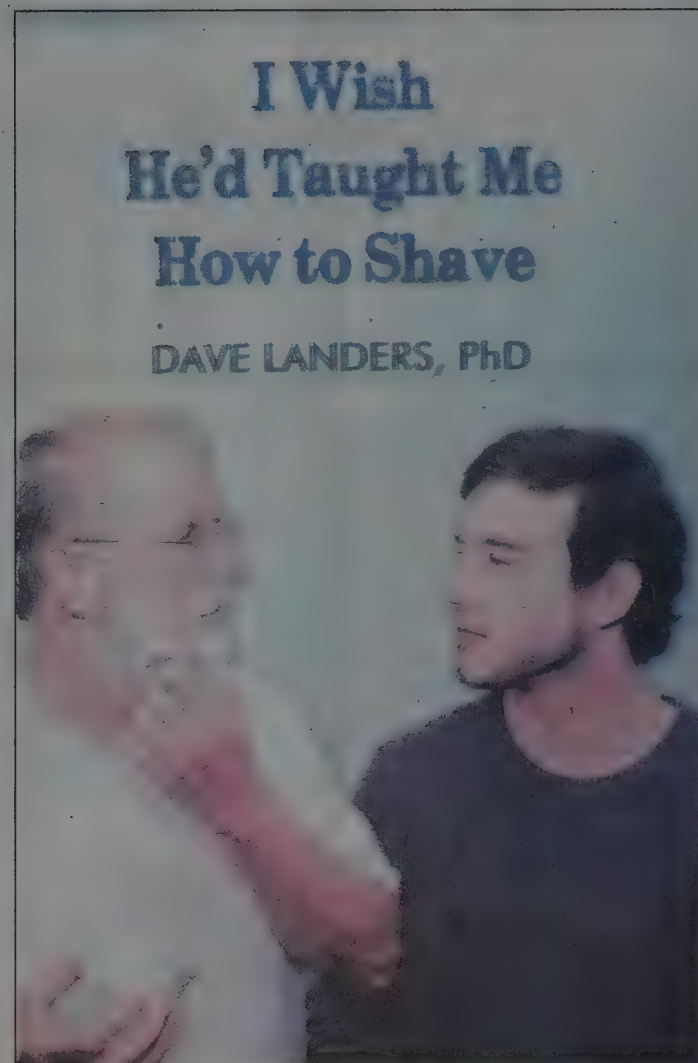


Photo Woodridge Books of Vermont

Pizza and the Skinny Pancake, where several authors read their work and participants shared writing prompts they had been given on the bus ride to each stop. The pub crawl began where

it ended at the ArtsRiot headquarters on Pine Street in Burlington, where the PoJazz Brass Ensemble closed the night.

"I'm just really excited to be a part of the writing community

Picture of the Week

For more images from Professor Swope's Photojournalism class

go online to defender.smcvt.edu



Photo by Tarah Srethwatanakul

September/October

wednesday 25 Poe Jam with Doug Nag BCA Center, 8 p.m. Burlington Writer's Workshop Meeting Half Lounge, 6:30 p.m.	thursday 26 Strangefolk Higher Ground, 8 p.m. Braids Signal Kitchen, 8 p.m.	friday 27 Strangefolk Higher Ground, 8 p.m. Heather McGill Opeing Reception BCA Center, 5 p.m.	saturday 28 Swale Radio Bean, 8 p.m. Swing Dance with Red Hot Juba Champlain Club, 8 p.m.
sunday 29 Dent May and Dead Gaze Signal Kitchen, 9 p.m. Needtobreathe Higher Ground, 8 p.m.	monday 30 Celtic Thunder Flynn Theater, 7:30 p.m. Skeletons in the Piano Nectar's, 9 p.m.	tuesday 1 Blitzen Trapper Higher Ground, 8 p.m. New England Italian Film Festival Waterman Building UVM, 7 p.m.	wednesday 2 Moe. featuring Marco Benevento Higher Ground, 9 p.m. Aziz Abu Sarah McCarthy Arts Center, 7 p.m.
thursday 3 Baths Signal Kitchen, 9 p.m. Sails The Monkey House, 9 p.m.	friday 4 Immortal Technique and Brother Ali Higher Ground, 8:30 p.m. Freedom Friday Dance Jam North End Studio A, 8 p.m.	saturday 5 The McLovins Nectar's, 9 p.m. Community Yoga Class Burlington College, 12 p.m.	sunday 6 Bill Maher Memorial Auditorium, 9 p.m. Stars Higher Ground, 7:30 p.m.
monday 7 Open Mike Radio Bean, 9 p.m. Adaptive International Folk Dancing North End Studio A, 1 p.m.	tuesday 8 Milk Carton Kids Higher Ground, 7:30 p.m. Community Drum Circle Blanchard Beach, 5 p.m.	Farmers' Markets Schedule Burlington Farmers' Market City Hall Park, Saturdays, 8-2:30 p.m. Fletcher Allen Farmers' Market Davis Concourse of the hospital, Thursdays 2:30-5 p.m. New North End Farmers' Market Elks Lodge, Thursdays, 3-6:30 p.m. Old North End Farmers' Market Dewy Park, Tuesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. South Burlington Farmers' Market South Burlington High School, Sundays, 10-2 p.m. Winooski Farmers' Market Champlain Mill Green, Sundays, 10-2 p.m. Stowe Farmers' Market Rt. 108 Mountain Road, Sundays, 10:30-3 p.m.	



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Facilitating a campus-wide discussion

Two weeks ago not many people knew who Tom Kingston and Dannis Hackney were. The Defender broke the story of their terminations and brought a campus issue to light.

Since then, a campus-wide discussion has begun around the issue of whether the firings of Kingston and Hackney were due to union activity or not. This discussion has also brought the college's negotiations with the union to the forefront.

This dialogue and discussion is a good thing. Issues like these on campus need to be talked about. The Defender received

many letters to the editor and emails about this topic, and the issue is being discussed through other venues on campus, such as an alumni petition, a faculty assembly, a press conference and a rally. Thank you to those who have joined the discussion.

Now, due to the campus-wide conversation, new information has been brought to light. The Defender was able to update our readers with another article this issue. Ultimately, the more information that is available to The Defender, the better we are able to inform our readers.

Even though this discussion

may seem painful now, in the long run, the St. Michael's community will benefit from it. This dialogue sets a precedent for how the college will handle issues like this in the future. Journalism plays a vital role in democracy, by facilitating a discussion like this one. Through press coverage, the journalism industry illuminates certain issues for a community. The Defender was not alone this past week in providing coverage of the custodial union to the St. Michael's and Colchester community.

As John Milton wrote, "Though all the winds of doc-

trine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter."

The goal of this discussion is to bring the truth to light, and it's not over yet. This discussion needs to continue. As it does, hopefully the truth will come to light and will triumph over falsehood.

- Mikala Kane
Executive Editor

THE DEFENDER STAFF

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We publish letters to the editor, as long as they are signed. Letters will be edited only for grammar, spelling, taste, and sometimes length.

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Letters to the Editor regarding the custodial union

As an alumna with very fond memories of St. Michael's, I was shocked and disappointed to read in *The Defender* of the dismissal of the two janitors, Tom Kingston and Dannis Hackney.

As a journalism major, I spent many late nights in Bergeron Hall. In between trying to get *The Echo* published or my media project to work, I came to know Tom Kingston quite well. As he mopped or emptied the trash, we'd discuss the history class he was taking, or world politics. Or his cat. Tom was a major presence on campus for many students – he'd eat in Alliot with us, take classes with us, read many of the same books we read. I still cite insights from my conversations with him to this day.

One of my favorite things about my time at St. Michael's was the opportunity I had to

learn and grow with a community of people that I felt really knew me. I know St. Mike's likes to promote itself as having caring professors who really know the students. It absolutely does, and I'm grateful for my time with many of them. Also integral to the experience, however, were my experiences with people who don't appear in the college brochures – the staff in Alliot who know our names, the people who took out the trash who greeted us cheerfully every day. I had the opportunity to talk to and learn from all of them, and it wasn't until I graduated that I realized how rare that is. A few years ago, I recounted to a friend an exchange I had with Tom – while getting the recycling together, he explained to me the parallels he saw between ancient Roman writings on the Visigoths and contemporary xenophobia.

"That's fascinating," she said, "What does that professor teach?" "Oh, it was the night janitor," I replied.

Those who know me in my current life in New York City know I'm often found remarking how much better certain things are done in Vermont. In particular, I miss its more egalitarian nature, the way it seemed that everyone was considered a valuable individual with something to say, not simply regarded in terms of career or social status. To a large extent, those are values I learned at St. Michael's, and I'm heartbroken to see them at risk.

Sincerely,
Katie Barry Ishibashi,
Brooklyn, NY
Class of 2004

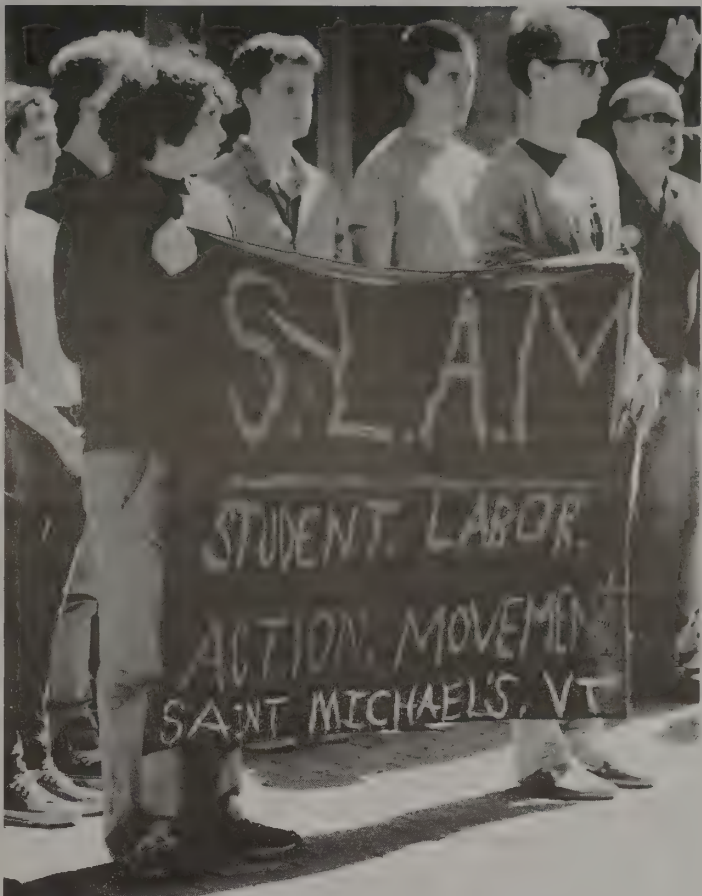


Photo by Sheila Bogan
SLAM held a press conference to address the union negotiations in front of the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel on Wednesday.

Dear Defender,

First, let me thank you for the great article reporting the unceremonious firing of two of St. Michael's long time custodial employees. This act by the administration reeks of injustice. I think it is important for those members of the campus community that find this act above and beyond the pale to express their opinions. Secondly, I would like to provide another perspective on some of the comments about unionism in the article. Before I do so, let me state that I have been a union organizer in three different union campaigns. In all of those campaigns I was an employee of the workplace I was helping organize. In other words, I was not being paid by

a union, although I find nothing wrong with that.

In general, management usually argues that unions take away a worker's autonomy. This argument assumes that the employee and the employer are equal in the workplace and each has equal control over their work schedule, pay and other aspects of the job. Obviously, this is not the case. However, once a workplace is organized by the workers into a union the ability of the workers to have some control over the aforementioned aspects of their work environment increases. In other words, a unionized workplace actually has the potential to increase workers' autonomy by providing them with a voice that actually has power to negotiate

wages and work conditions. In addition, a unionized workplace provides workers with a legally recognized means to challenge what they perceive to be unjust practices, like the firing of the two St. Michael's custodians reported in your newspaper. Furthermore, I would argue that the reason only 8 percent of the U.S. work force is organized into unions is because of the never-ending onslaught by corporations and legislators in the pay of those corporations against U.S. workers, not because U.S. workers are better off without them.

Thanks,
Ron Jacobs
Durick Library Circulation
Supervisor

To the Editor,

St. Michael's College supports workers' rights, and legitimately claims a strong historic, continuing record of commitment to social justice. The college's performance in this regard can withstand close scrutiny. The college has participated with full respect in the process that culminated in the formation of a custodians' union at St. Michael's last year.

The College generally does not discuss specific personnel matters. But you can be certain that the college has acted in good faith, with respect for employees and for the health and safety of the college. Union negotiations are ongoing and the College will continue to bargain in good faith with the Union's bargaining team.

As a communications professional, I would respectfully request those who publish their opinions clarify that these are just their opinion and that they do not have a full understanding of all the relevant facts.

Buff Lindau
Director of Marketing & Communications

do not know the answer to this question. It might be that pursuit of this question would lead to discovery of widespread malfeasance on the part of the college. It might be that pursuit of this question would cast doubt on the "union-busting" narrative that dominated the article. It might be that the subjects of such an inquiry would prefer not to speak on the record, which itself would be some sort of news, albeit hard to interpret. Even anonymous responses to the question would be informative. But as far as I can tell from the article, such a question was never asked of anyone, and this, I believe, is a huge missed opportunity for critical thinking in relation to an issue that is so important to the St. Michael's community and beyond.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Trumbower, Ph.D.
Dean of the College

Dear Editor,

As Academic Dean, my primary interest is always the learning that our students experience while here at the college. A big part of that learning, one that we promote tirelessly, is "critical thinking." It is often difficult to describe what this abstract concept means concretely, but I believe an occasion has presented itself in connection with the article on the firing of two union advocates in the Sept. 10 issue of *The Defender*. Although I am part of the administration, I have absolutely no jurisdiction over or knowledge about the specific cases of the two employees who were fired. I write purely about the way the information was presented in the newspaper, and a missed opportunity for critical thinking. As a consumer of the news in this article, I found myself asking a key question: are there actively pro-union custodians on our campus who do not feel they have been targeted and who think the college is negotiating in good faith? I truly

A call to action to the St. Michael's community

By Kirsten Wilson and Peter Burgos
SLAM Members

We, Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM), imagine that this is not the first you have heard from us in the past few weeks. In light of the firings of Tom Kingston and Dannis Hackney, two custodians who were heavily involved in the union organizing effort, SLAM has made public its position on the issue and reached out to the St. Michael's community as well as the greater community for support. We thought that perhaps our petition, which garnered more than 400 student signatures, and our alumni petition, last counted at 330 signatures, might have been enough to encourage greater respect for workers, in the form of reconciliation for these firings and better working conditions. Our meeting with the President, however, proved frustrating. We were told to take the administration at its word, an appeal to obedience, which did not deter

us from intensifying our efforts. On Sept. 18, SLAM hosted a press conference on campus at which local labor leaders commented on the labor practices at St. Michael's; this was followed on Sept. 20 by an informational picket. These events were meant to demonstrate community support and call on the school administration to take seriously our demands of reparations for Tom and Dannis, and more fair labor practices at St. Michael's. From Hegel to Martin Luther King Jr., change has historically been perceived as a form of growth inseparable from pain. In the context of our campus, it is not an enjoyable process to call out the community's leaders for their actions. However, it is sometimes necessary to do so for the improvement of the whole. Likewise, it can be painful to hear criticism of one's leaders because it shakes the notion we have of our community as always friendly and just. However, such recognitions of

injustice are necessary, as ignoring it only deepens the problem. Even though SLAM has begun this process of reflection within our community, we invite and encourage all to participate in some shape or form. We are all part of the St. Michael's community and therefore all of us are touched in some way by the events within it. Although it may sometimes seem as though one can remain isolated from injustice, SLAM's actions in the past few weeks have been part of an effort to remove this illusion of separation and to encourage a participatory and negotiated settlement of the situation. This campaign does not simply involve the administration, the custodians, and a concerned group of student activists; it involves everyone associated with St. Michael's, and therefore everyone has a responsibility to be engaged in pushing for a resolution of these problems. Many have stayed on the sidelines of this struggle for lack

of hard evidence. Admittedly, there is still much that remains unknown due to a policy of confidentiality in regard to these firings. The same can be said for the negotiation of the custodians' first contract, a process that is heavily regulated by a policy of confidentiality. To remain passive in the face of these unknowns, however, is to grant the administration the benefit of the doubt for actions that are highly suspicious and which go against any kind of "just cause" provision, which should be part of the custodians' first contract. There was no third party arbiter for these firings and thus pressure needs to come from the outside in order to ensure that these issues are resolved in a manner that benefits the entire community. The voices of the disempowered are often not given the same consideration as that of the dominant discourse. SLAM has listened to the complaints of Tom and Dannis, as well as other custodians who still work

on this campus, about a disrespectful work environment at St. Michael's. Regardless of what may be missing from the current conversation, these reports from an integral part of our community must not be undervalued. Instead, they should serve as the foundation for a movement towards a more balanced decision-making process at St. Michael's. We continue to invite the administration to work with the rest of the campus community to solve these problems. We also appeal to the campus as a whole to join in the movement for fairer labor practices at St. Michael's. As difficult as the process ahead of us will likely be, the possible improvements for our community will be far greater.

Calendar of campus events, courtesy of the S.A. September/October

24	25	26	27	28
First SA Meeting 7:00pm, Cheray 101	Cooking Lessons 6:00pm Extended Service Info. Sessions 6:00pm, Upper room of Chapel	Extended Service Info. Sessions 6:00pm, Upper room of Chapel	MOVE Serve-a-thon, 9:00am	MOVE Serve-a-thon, 9:00am
29	30	1	2	
			Peace Speaker 7:00pm McCarthy Arts Center	

"Behind the Candelabra" and what is too gay?

HBO's most recent film's journey to the small screen raises questions on LGBT in Hollywood

COLUMNS
EDITOR



James
Greer

The Primetime Emmy Awards were on two days ago and while I was hoping to see "Breaking Bad" or "Game of Thrones" take home some gold, there was a TV movie up for 15 nominations, and even won for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Movie and Outstanding Miniseries or Movie.

"Behind the Candelabra" was a film released by HBO in May and stars Michael Douglas and Matt Damon. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, "Candelabra" tells the story of musician Liberace (Douglas) and his relationship with his lover Scott Thorson (Damon) during the 1970s and 80s.

I was abroad when the film first debuted so I would see posters of the film and show times of when it would be played in mainstream theatres in Europe. I was surprised to come home and find that "Candelabra" did not make it into American theaters. I did a little research and found an interview with Soderbergh while he was promoting his movie at the Cannes Film Festival. When asked why the film was released as a television movie in the U.S., Soderbergh said major film studios didn't want to fund it because it was "too gay."

Is Hollywood homophobic? This claim is not too surprising if you consider the film industry's approach to gay characters and actors in the past. We are used to seeing overly flamboyant and effeminate gay stock characters

in television and film who love to shop, adore Cher and are basically considered interchangeable with a female character.

Kim Fountain, the director of the RU12?, an LGBT community center in Burlington said that homophobia has been present in Hollywood for decades.

"Look at leading men like Rock Hudson, Spencer Tracy and so many others, who had to hide who they were in order to be read as 'real leading men,'" Fountain said.

There are two sides to every story, but no Hollywood studio has made an official statement in response to Soderbergh's claim. Mark Andrew Fritz, a director of theatrical sales and distribution for Warner Bros., responded to MotherJones.com writer Asawin Suebsaeng's claim that Hollywood denying funding for "Candelabra" was homophobic with a Twitter post that read, "@motherjones @hbo Sorry, but it is completely untrue that this film was deemed 'too gay' by Hollywood."

Dr. Michael Bosia, an associate professor of political science at St. Michael's, said that while Hollywood has its homophobic tendencies, a film about Liberace may not have been bankable because most of the theater going audience is a younger crowd who may not know who Liberace was.

"The dynamic is much more insidious than just homophobia," Bosia said. "What I mean is that they want the largest audience as possible in the shortest period of time to make the largest amount of money. They have to produce movies that appeal to a broad range. What ends up happening is that a lot of alternative voices get squeezed out of the theater market."

Bosia said he understands the economics of Hollywood, but he is critical of how this business

model affects the arts.

"If you are a cultural industry, you need to be dedicated to providing culture," Bosia said. "In a cultural enterprise you should be providing what is the broadest range of products to meet the broadest range of markets."

It is a shame that films such as "Candelabra" are not getting a wide release, that art is cast aside and business takes over

riage equality is a testament to that fact. But at the same time, over the past 20 years, our nation has progressed so much in the acceptance of gay rights in our culture. In this past summer alone, there were the Supreme Court decisions on the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8, the inclusion of gay youths in the Scouting Organization and even Pope Francis saying "Who am I to judge?" These are all

tain said. "It's been said that the LGBTQ movement is progressing faster than any other in U.S. history. I think that because Hollywood has a long history of LGBTQ people working throughout the entire industry as costume designers, directors, writers, actors, that it is particularly open to change."

"Behind the Candelabra" may have not even been acceptable enough for HBO, say, 30 years ago. But because we are living in a time of great change now, films like this can at least have the chance to get the audience and have the popularity they deserve.

At the end of the day, maybe it was the best move for "Behind the Candelabra" to be funded by HBO. The film was HBO's highest viewed original film in almost 10 years and was a critical success. HBO and Showtime are what the independent film industry was decades ago, and have done a great job at creating a variety of programming for the multitudes of markets in television. Plus, with theater going audiences plummeting, these could just be signs that how media releases its content is ever changing, adapting to the desires of the consumer.

"Candelabra" found a home on television, but there is still work to be done. What two consenting adults do is their own business, and categorizing behavior based on the genders involved is creating a rift, which upholds stereotypes that should be washed away as soon as possible. I hope this is accomplished not just in the stories on the big and small screens, but in America's story as well.

James Greer is a senior media studies, journalism, digital arts and music double major. Email him at jgreer@mail.smcvt.edu.

If you are a cultural industry, you need to be dedicated to providing culture. In a cultural enterprise you should be providing what is the broadest range of products to meet the broadest range of markets.

-Michael Bosia

filmmaking. But studios are trying to make films that the people will anticipate, what they would want to see. So which needs to change first, Hollywood, or the American people?

Julia Berberan, the coordinator of the Center for Women and Gender at St. Michael's, said that if a symbiotic relationship exists between the film industry and the consumer, greater change will come about.

"If Hollywood is having queer people as main characters in things, then it's going to influence the American people in a good way," Berberan said. "And I feel that if the American people are showing that they are more supportive, more open to LGBT people, then that will influence Hollywood and make them realize that 'oh, this is something we can do and people aren't going to get freaked out.'"

America is not perfect. Thirty seven states without mar-

signs that as a society, we are moving towards a world where all can be treated equally, regardless of who we love.

Hollywood's depictions of LGBT are just the beginning. I could be writing so much more on how the film industry addresses race, religion, and ethnicity.

But credit should be given where it is due. Films such as "Philadelphia," "The Kids are Alright," and "Brokeback Mountain" depict LGBT people, graced the big screen and became successes, both critically and financially.

Fountain said she has her criticisms with the American film industry, but she also believes films that have dealt in LGBT issues have come a long way, especially "Brokeback Mountain."

"Clearly, with Brokeback Mountain even up for an Oscar, that signals huge strides," Foun-

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Columns- Artwork- Poetry- Photos

Tom Ward, '12, signs with English professional team

By Mike Biciocchi
Staff Writer

St. Michael's men's basketball alumnus Tom Ward has signed with the Worthing Thunder of the English Basketball League.

Ward, '12, was captain of the men's basketball team for the 2011-2012 season, and is tied at fifth in St. Michael's history with a 40.2 career three-point shooting percentage. He is now continuing his basketball career in England.

Ward started playing basketball at 10 years old in his hometown of Brighton, England. "My favorite sport was originally football," he said, which he clarified as soccer.

Ward's mother encouraged him to join the school basketball club where he discovered he enjoyed playing.

"I don't think it really came naturally to me, to be honest," Ward said. "I was always relatively athletic but I worked really hard to improve and be as good as I could possibly be."

Ward said he credits the success of his early basketball days to Tony Awcock, who was his coach growing up in England.

"[He] spent hours helping me to improve my game," Ward said.

Ward's tipping point from a good basketball player to a great one came during his early teenage years.

"When I was about 15, I really just went for it and gave basketball everything I had," Ward said.

Ward found refuge in the sport.

"I think one of the best cures to a worrying mind is to go to an empty gym with your basketball and work on your game," he said. "I used it as an escape from my worries growing up and I'm so thankful to have had it."

This time and effort helped six-foot-four-inch Ward land the point guard position for the Worthing Thunder.

Over in England, Ward said he is loving life.

"My most recent glory moment was playing my first game

for the Worthing Thunder," Ward said. "My mom hasn't seen me play a game since I was about 16 years old, and many of my old friends from long ago were at the game. [It was] just an exhibition game, but we won in overtime and I had 28 points and played my ass off. It was a great feeling to return to where I grew up and 'ball out.'"

Ward is excited about his new team, but says he still holds strong ties with St. Michael's.

"One of the most amazing basketball memories [I have] was my junior year of college at St. Mike's when we beat Bentley in their own gym and they were I think top 10 in the nation at the time," Ward said. "We ran into the locker room and went wild. It was an unbelievable feeling especially as we had worked so hard to get where we did that year."

"I think on a team level that [basketball] has the power to unite a group of people to achieve a goal, and if successful, can bring out the most positive traits such as selflessness and unity in the face of adversity, which my team and I experienced many times in college," Ward said. "My coach at St. Mike's, Michael Harding, taught me how to be a selfless leader on and off the court."

Harding said Ward was one of the best three-point shooters he had seen in his three years as head coach.

"Tom was team captain and organized the team on a day to day basis," Harding said. "He was a leader on and off the court and was well respected by his teammates. He is a great shooter. I hope he lights it up [in England]. I hope he has fun."

"He was a great teammate and leader when he was here at SMC and a hard worker," said Mike Holton, '14, current St. Michael's basketball player and captain. "If there's anyone who deserves to be having continued success with basketball it's Tom. We're all happy for him."

Last season's St. Michael's basketball captain, John Reiser, said Ward was his best friend on the team.

"I know I speak for anyone that played with him when I say that Tom epitomized what it meant to be a captain and a leader, both on and off the court," Reiser said. "I think the thing I appreciate most about Tom, regardless of his basketball ability, is how good of a person and friend he is. He's caring and loyal; qualities that undoubtedly helped him get to where he is today."

Ward says he hopes to do big things with his career in England.

"I'm working hard on building up my own skills 'Academy' in my hometown of Brighton," Ward said. "I'm starting small right now coaching in local schools but I want to keep building it up to the point where one day I have my own facility that I can run camps and clinics from."

"I actually hope to bring a group of kids out to the U.S. next summer to attend camp but I need to find some sponsorship to do so as it would be very expensive for them," Ward said. "I really want to give kids in my area the chance to be lucky enough to do what I was able to do and play college ball in the U.S."



Photo by Andre Nichols

Above: Tom Ward puts up a shot against U.S.A. Select. Below: Ward handles the ball during a game against the Reading Rockets.



KNIGHT WRITER: NFL is looking all too familiar

By Drew Prescott
Sports Editor

Don't worry sports fans, the NFL is exactly where you left it.

Yes, technically a new season is has begun. The first three weeks of the season have already provided us with some close games, big time highlights, and memorable moments. But consider what we know based on the games so far, and tell me if anything is different from the end of the 2012 season.

We've been reminded that Reggie Bush is both very talented and very fragile. We know that in the regular season Peyton throws touchdowns and Eli throws picks. Once again, the Buccaneers are underachieving. Brady and Belichick are still the the only constants in New

England, while Chip Kelly has shown us that an offense featuring a healthy Michael Vick, DeSean Jackson, and LeSean McCoy, is a scary one.

The Jets continue to disappoint fans while Rex Ryan is still desperate for attention in a city ruled by the slow-starting G-men.

Of course, Ndamukong Suh has already been fined by Roger Goodell for on-field misconduct.

Only three games in, the Browns have all but thrown away another season, proving their front office remains one of the worst in the league. Seattle and San Francisco have exciting young quarterbacks and rock solid defenses. Andrew Luck is the real deal, which we all knew when he was a junior at Stan-

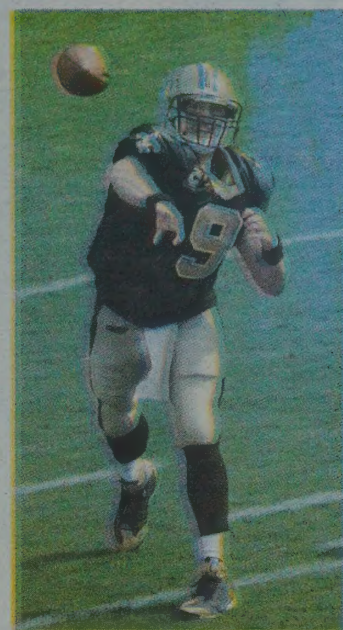
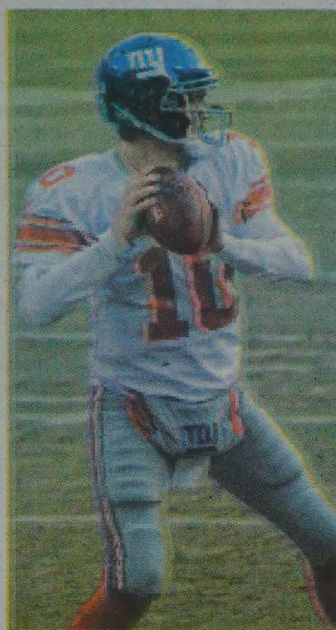
ford. Jay Cutler throws for a ton of yards then immediately negates it with interceptions. The Bills are painfully average, and Adrian Peterson is really, really good while his quarterback really, really isn't.

The Redskins can't win without a healthy RGIII, and the Jaguars just can't win.

Despite all the surge of young talent at quarter back, the faces on the NFL's current Mount Rushmore are still those of Brees, Rodgers, P. Manning, and Brady.

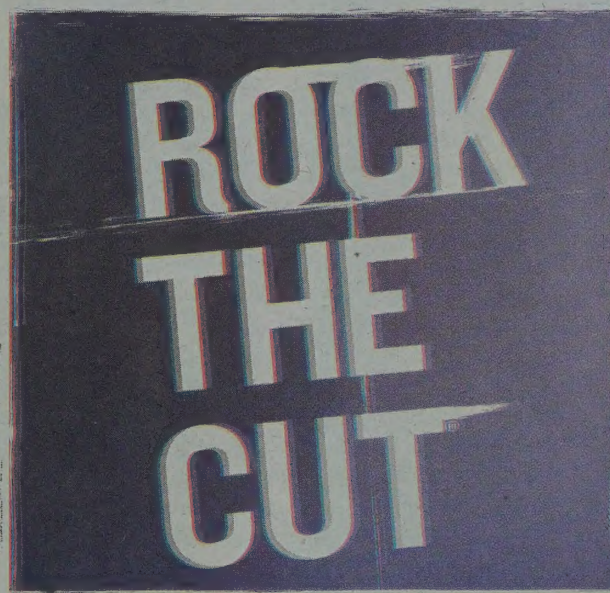
The NFC is still stronger than the AFC and Geno Atkins is still stronger than everyone.

I love the NFL, but so far this season has been overwhelmingly unimaginative.



Source : Wikipedia

NFC quarterbacks Eli Manning and Drew Brees have led their teams to 0-3 and 3-0 records, respectively.



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Chelsey Covitz excels on and off of the court

Womens' volleyball captain is named to Commissioner's Honor Roll for a fifth time in her career

By Candice Cahill
Staff Writer

Senior captain Chelsey Covitz is not only a vital player for the women's volleyball team, but has recently been named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll for the fifth time* in her academic career.

This distinction is awarded by the Northeast-10 Conference, recognizing student-athletes who have reached a 3.0 GPA or higher and have demonstrated excellence in their sport.

For an athlete it is important to show that talent for a sport comes with not only the athleticism, but also experiential knowledge. This includes the ability to know the sport like the back of your hand, strategically organize and execute plays, and to set goals for hope of reaching success. Most athletes have these skills on the field, but it stands out when they are able to apply these skills to other aspects of their careers.

Coach Kelly Garthwait has seen this first hand being Covitz's coach and feels she is someone who is very deserving of the Commissioner's Honor Roll.

"Chelsey is always the first person on the bus doing her homework and always prioritizing what she needs to get done," Coach Garthwait said. "We are lucky to have her on the team."

As a captain of the team, Covitz has played on the varsity team for four years here at St. Michael's. She has been rec-

ognized all four years for her ability as a team player and her academic success. As an undergraduate student, participating in athletics can present schedule conflict, but being able to attain recognizable grades is something worth noticing.

Covitz commented on how she organizes her academic and schedule workload.

"I organized my classes to make room for homework," Covitz said. "It can be hard sometimes especially when we have games during the week on school nights but I try to manage my time and study as I go throughout the semester."

As an accounting major with a business minor, Chelsey claimed practicing out problems and using free time to study helped her through the semester.

In reference to her semester so far, Covitz commented on how it may cause more schedule conflicts with classes than in previous years.

"Being a senior and taking the 400 level classes I'm finding it a little more difficult," Covitz said. "Getting up to the higher level classes there are fewer if not one section of a class and you absolutely need it for your major, even if it goes from 3:15-4:50."

The team's 7 wins, 2 losses has so far proven successful which she hopes for it to continue into the season. The senior from Massachusetts started playing volleyball to stay active during the basketball off season.

"At the time I was really

into basketball and was actually planning on playing in college up until sophomore year in high school," Covitz said. "I tried out for volleyball just for fun since it didn't conflict with basketball and ended up having a knack for it and really enjoyed playing. Sophomore year I made the decision to focus on volleyball."

It's an art she has worked on and carried out through her college career. Her skills and attitude have led her to become one of the three captains for the team. Sophomore teammate Kelsey Flaherty, '16, said how different the team will be when Covitz graduates in the spring.

"The past two years with Chelsey have been great," said Flaherty. "Losing her next year will be hard but she has definitely made a positive mark on the volleyball program, and has developed into a great leader."

Fellow senior teammate Brianna Saunders, '13, also commented on Chelsey's attitude and leadership role on the team.

"Our team dynamic is positive," Saunders said. "Chelsey is an asset to that with her work ethic on and off the court."

When asked what advice Covitz would give an incoming varsity athlete on balancing school and sports she said, "It important to prioritize, you should always remember you are a student-athlete."



Photos by Jessica Campbell

Chelsey Covitz plays middler hitter at women's volleyball practice on Friday.



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